

NISC / ISAC Meeting – November 2014

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSORING NISC/ISAC MEMBER: Bill Toomey

PRESENTER'S NAME/AFFILIATION: Brian Said - The Davey Tree Expert Company

TOPIC: Survey for major forest health pests and up-dates on current infestations.

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM: Update on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication efforts in the United States, including development of a risk-based survey model for early detection of ALB outside of current quarantine zones.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC?

The protection of forests in both the built and natural landscapes depends upon finding infestations while they are still localized enough to be contained and hopefully eradicated. When an infestation is not detected early enough it puts both our forests and our communities at risk (this impact is felt most in under-served communities that have fewer resources to protect their trees). Not only are valuable trees and their economic property value benefits lost, but there is also a direct impact on people and communities that lose their trees.

One of the most severe threats is from Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). ALB can kill 31 trees species in 13 genera. Quarantine zones have been established for ALB by USDA APHIS, and extensive EDRR work is being down within the quarantine zones to find and stop ALB. However, ALB can be moved to areas outside the quarantine zones by human activity and quickly transported long distances, or may result from a previous introduction via solid wood packing material that had gone undetected.

This movement follows predictable transportation patterns. In addition, there well-developed survey protocols to search for ALB (and other invasive insects and plant pathogens) and extensive monitoring data are available. These data can be used to determine which places that are most at risk for ALB and where to focus Early Detection surveys.

Data and tools are becoming increasingly available to more strategically guide efforts to find ALB. However, USDA-APHIS is currently limited to conducting survey efforts within quarantine zones only unless there is a report of ALB from another area.

3. HOW DOES THIS ITEM RELATE TO THE 2008 – 2012 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN? Coordination of Early Detection Surveys for ALB on a national level directly addresses many of the objectives in the Early Detection and Rapid Response sections of the National Invasive Species Management Plan such as those in OBJECTIVE EDRR.1: ENHANCE CURRENT MONITORING EFFORTS FOR EARLY DETECTION. In addition, the Department of the Interior has cross-bureau urban agenda that could include urban forest health protection.

4. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM: None

5. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC: Consider a recommendation to NISC they develop an interagency capability to recommend coordinating Early Detection Surveys for ALB at a national level that are targeted by monitoring and other data with the goal of finding and halting all ALB infestations to prevent the impact that an established and persisting ALB infestation would have on the surrounding forest or a given community.

6. ALTERNATIVES: Table to ISAC subcommittee and/or request information from NISC agencies, reject.

7. ATTACHMENTS: